

APPLICANTS: STEINER, Mitchell S. et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/449,817
FILED: November 26, 1999
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In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 53 - 59 as follows:

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~~53~~ 53. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid has a nucleic acid sequence having at least 75% similarity with the nucleic acid coding sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 1 or 3.

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~~54~~ 54. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid has a nucleic acid sequence having at least 85% similarity with the nucleic acid coding sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 1 or 3.

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~~55~~ 55. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid has a nucleic acid sequence having at least 95% similarity with the nucleic acid coding sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 1 or 3.

~~56~~ 56. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid fragment is set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 1 or 3.

~~57~~ 57. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid fragment is set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 5 or 6.

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~~58~~ 58. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim ~~53~~ ⁵⁴, wherein the nucleic acid is cDNA or genomic DNA.

~~59~~ 59. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid encodes an amino acid sequence having the sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 2 or 4.

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 52 were pending in the subject Application. Applicants have hereinabove cancelled claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer and have added new claims 53 - 59. Therefore claims 1, 7 and 10-59 are now pending. Applicants respectfully request entry of the Amendment.